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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067565

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66665
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---------- 047646
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 067565

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO COPENHAGEN, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, OECD PARIS, GENEVA APRIL 9, 1973 FROM HELSINKI IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE
NCLAS HELSINKI 0955

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, FI
SUBJECT: FINLAND EXPANDS LIST OF COUNTRIES COVERED BY GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCE SCHEME

REF: (A) HELSINKI A-027, JANUARY 27, 1972; (B) HELSINKI 2116, DECEMBER 13, 1972.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ON APRIL 5, BANGLADESH, BULGARIA, WEST SAMOA AND NAURU WERE ADDED TO THE LIST OF COUNTRIES TO WHOM FINLAND WILL GRANT GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCE. IMPLEMENTATION WILL DEPEND ON RECEIPT OF SIGNATURES AND COUNTRY- OF- ORIGIN FORMS FROM THESE COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. FINNISH PRESS ANNOUNCED APRIL 6 THAT FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO GRANT GENERALIZED PREFERENCE IN TARIFFS TO BANGLADESH, BULGARIA, WEST SAMOA AND NAURU. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFEENCES WILL BE ENFORCED AS SOON AS FINLAND RECEIVES FROM THESE COUNTRIES THE NECESSARY SIGNATURES AND COUNTRY- OF- ORIGIN FORMS WHICH SOURCE DESCRIBED AS
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ONLY A FORMALITY.

3. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, NONE OF THE COUNTRIES MENTIONED, WITH EXCEPTION OF BULGARIA, HAD BEEN PRESSING FINLAND FOR GENERALIZED PREFERENCE AND TRADE WITH THEM HAS BEEN MINIMAL. BULGARIA HAS FROM TIME TO TIME REQUESTED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT AND PERHAPS ITS INCLUSION AT THIS TIME MAY BE RELATED TO ANTICIPATED VISIT TO FINLAND BY BULGARIAN PRIME MINISTER IN NEAR FUTURE. SOURCE STATED THAT A FEW MORE COUNTRIES MAY BE ADDED TO THE LIST IN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS BUT DID NOT CITE NAMES.
WHITE UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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